

Government. The foreign Ambassador in this instance was, strange to relate, no other than the representative of the Czar, namely, the Baron de Mohrenheim.

Such were the sentiments which prevailed both at St. Petersburg and at Paris until about ten years ago, when, France having already begun to tack in the direction of a Muscovite windward, Russia suddenly and almost without warning ported her helm, and, quitting the German waters in which she had until then been sailing, betook herself into those of France. Various stories have been related from time to time with regard to the origin of this sudden volte-face on the part of Alexander III in breaking away from the so-called Three Emperor Alliance, the other parties to which were his grand-uncle, old Emperor William, and Francis Joseph, ruler of Austria-Hungary. But the following is the true reason, which is worth while relating as showing how mean and despicable trifles on the part of obscure personages can sometimes bring about changes of international importance calculated to alter the political equilibrium of the civilized world, and to imperil the peace of the universe.

TELETYPE PAPERS IN HIS POSSESSION.

One day there arrived in Paris a well-dressed young man of somewhat dissipated appearance, who immediately on alighting from the Brussels express entered a cab and drove off to the home of a gentleman of the name of M. de Mondion. The latter had spent the first ten years of his life as tutor of the children of the late Prince Joseph de Caraman Chimay, at that time Belgian Minister of Foreign Affairs, one of his pupils being the present head of the house of Chimay, whose matrimonial misfortunes have during the last two years constituted the subject of so much unsavory scandal. After leaving Brussels, where De Mondion made an immense number of friends, especially among those nobles, dignitaries and diplomats who frequented the hospitable house of his employer and friend, he became the secretary of General Tchong-Ki-Tong, who at the time was accredited as Chinese Chargé d'Affaires not only at Paris, but also at Vienna and Berlin. M. de Mondion seems to have availed himself of the opportunities thus brought within his reach to render all sorts of confidential services to the French Minister of Foreign Affairs, until at last he became looked upon as a sort of semi-official agent of the latter, to be used or disavowed as the case might be. It was this that the young Belgian had in mind in calling upon him at his house in the Avenue Victor Hugo. M. de Mondion at once recognized in the visitor a natural son of King Leopold, who goes by the name of Baron K—, and of whom the Belgian monarch was, at that time, at any rate, extremely fond, allowing him the run of his palaces at Brussels, as well as at Laeken. The Baron was a gambler, and before he had been ten minutes with M. de Mondion he explained that he had lost \$50,000 at cards, and would be disgraced if he could not procure the money within forty-eight hours. He added that he had in his possession private documents which to the French Government were well worth the money—aye, and much more—since they furnished indisputable proofs that Prince Bismarck and the German Government, while pretending to co-operate with the late Czar in opposing Prince Ferdinand of Bulgaria, were secretly encouraging, and even helping him.

LETTERS TO KING LEOPOLD.

The papers in question comprised confidential letters addressed by Prince Ferdinand's mother, old Princess Clementine, who was then at Sofia, to her nephew, King Leopold. She invoked his influence on behalf of her son, and likewise urged him to withdraw his opposition to Ferdinand's use in Bulgaria of certain funds belonging to the house of Saxe-Coburg, of which Leopold is one of the principal members. With the object of attaining her end, and removing any hesitation that the King might entertain in connection with the matter, she inclosed a couple of confidential notes, one in the handwriting of Prince Bismarck himself, directed to the Princess, while the other had been addressed to Prince Ferdinand by Bismarck's most trusted friend and confidant, Prince Reuss, at that time German Ambassador at Vienna. The letter of Prince Reuss contained the most distinct assurances of Germany's support, the mention that a messenger accompanied the missive, and terminated with the words: "However unfavorable or hostile the acts of Germany may appear in the mean-while, rest assured that the sentiments secretly cherished by her will one day become apparent." Indeed, it may be safely taken for granted that Ferdinand, having solemnly pledged his word of honor to the late Czar through Prince Lobanoff, then Russian Ambassador at Vienna, not to accept the Bulgarian throne, would never have ventured to proceed forty-eight hours later to Sofia had it not been for this note sent to him by Prince Reuss.

M. de Mondion immediately realized the immense importance of these documents, and asking the Baron to remain at his house drove straight off to the Quai d'Orsay, where he showed them to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, M. de Freycinet. The latter manifested so much hesitation and reluctance about the matter, being anxious above everything else to avoid any complications with Bismarck, that M. de Mondion drove off from there to the Ministry of War and called upon General Boulanger. The latter showed himself far more appreciative of the opportunity thus placed within the reach of the French Government, returned with De Mondion to De Freycinet and argued with the latter so strongly that it was finally decided to obtain possession of the documents which the young Baron, according to his own story,

had taken from the desk of his father, King Leopold, at Laeken. The difficulty was about finding the money for the purpose. Neither the Minister of War, nor yet his colleague at the Department of Foreign Affairs, had sufficient cash remaining in the secret funds at their disposal, and finally, after some deliberation, they determined to apply to a mutual friend, the well-known Parisian banker, Hentsch, who immediately on hearing of the affair consented from motives of patriotism to give a check for the amount required to M. de Mondion on the understanding that, if possible, either the one or the other of the two Ministers would eventually repay him from their secret service votes.

SENT TO ALEXANDER III.

The young Belgian Baron was accordingly able to return to Brussels and pay his "debts of honor" within the stipulated time, while means were at once devised of submitting the letters to Alexander III. Finally, after the letters had been duly photographed, they were submitted to Alexander III, who was at that time at Copenhagen, by Princess Waldemar of Denmark, who was a daughter of the French Duke of Chartres, and who was not only a particular favorite of His Muscovite Majesty, but likewise the invariable companion of his long walks in the forests around the Castle of Fred-

also by the vast mass of the Russian people, who hate the Germans far worse than any other foreigner. Indeed, the very name given in Russia to the Germans, and by which they are known, namely, that of "Nemzi," signifies, "the dumb fools can't talk."

In the past Germans have been the principal instruments of the tyranny and despotism of the Czars, from the days of Peter the Great until about fifteen years ago, and it is not without significance that Alexander III, who was the first of the Muscovite Emperors to turn his face from the Germans, and to manifest an aversion for everything Teuton, was likewise the first of Russia's rulers to die what is known to have been a perfectly natural death. Until a short time ago it was Germans who acted as stewards and managers of all the estates, who collected the rents, and often the taxes, who controlled the banks, and to a great extent the trade, their wealth, prosperity, and power presenting a striking contrast to those of their Russian-born fellow-citizens. That is why the Germans are so loathed in Russia, and why a proclamation on the part of the Czar of a war against Germany would be quite as popular among his subjects as was the rebellion in Egypt in 1882 of Arabi Pacha, who undertook

been regarded as the very personification of diplomacy, tact and reticence, has actually gone so far as to respond to an address of the Alsace-Lorraine Association congratulating the Government on the conclusion of the alliance with Russia, by an expression of the hope that the lost provinces might soon be recovered by France. This forgetfulness of the axiom of Gambetta, who used to declare that the Frenchman who "talked" of getting back the provinces was a fool, while the man who did not "think" about it deserved to be kicked, has naturally led to a demand for explanations by the German Government, explanations which in the present temper of the French people they may decline to give. Without wishing to pose in any way as an alarmist, it may be pointed out that Emperor William has nothing to gain and much to lose by postponing a war which would at any rate silence for the time the discontent which his despotical ways have aroused throughout Germany, and tend to consolidate the bonds, at present badly strained, that unite the confederation of States known as the German Empire. It would commit, moreover, Austria to taking the part of Germany before allowing her time to establish any kind of an understanding with Russia, an understanding which is one of the aims of Count Muraviev.

From this it will be seen that the condition of Europe at the present juncture is very similar to that of a box of lucifer matches with which a child is playing, and which are liable to ignite at any moment. And to think that all this might have been avoided if only the nameless and illegitimate son of King Leopold had not lost more money at cards than he could afford to pay! Indeed, if ever there was an appropriate application of the old Latin saying of "multum ex parvo" it could be found in the Franco-Russian alliance. EX-ATTACHE.

PRINCESS KAILANI COMING.

THE PLEASING PERSONALITY OF EX-QUEEN LILUOKALANI'S NIECE.

The Princess Kailani of Hawaii, who visited this country in 1893, and whose pleasing personality made a favorable impression on all who met her at that time, has been in Europe since then, and will return to this country in a week or two. In view of the fact that affairs in Hawaii are attracting much attention, and that the ex-Queen of that country keeps herself before the public, the movements of the young princess will be watched with close attention.

Kailani is the niece of ex-Queen Liliuokalani who became Queen when her brother, Kalakaua, died in 1891. Prior to her elevation to the throne she was known in Honolulu as Mrs. Dominis. On attaining the new honors she named Kailani, the daughter of her sister, who had married a Mr. Cleghorn, as her heir to the royal title, since which time Kailani has been known as a princess, and has been looked upon by many as the future Queen of the Hawaiian Islands.

She is several shades lighter than her royal aunt, her features are more regular, and in her looks and bearing the Caucasian strain has left a refining trace. The young woman has travelled much since she left this country for England, and reports received from the various places where she has been stopping show that she was as popular with Europeans as with the few Americans who made her acquaintance.

A TROUBLESOME HERD.

From The Detroit Free Press.

The slow train is indigenous to all sections at some stage in their development, and has at some period or other in the history of every Commonwealth invoked of her helpless citizens that righteous indignation which, half smothered, we term impatience. Among others relating to this apparently indispensable fixture, they tell a good story down in East Tennessee of ex-Governor Taylor, at the expense of a little short line, commonly known as the "Narrow Gauge," running up the Watauga Valley from Johnson City, Tenn., to the famous Cranberry mines of North Carolina.

The road, having been built almost exclusively for the transportation of timber, mineral and building stone, instituted instead of a regular passenger service what is familiarly known as the "mixed train" or "jerk water," about one-third passenger and two-thirds freight. The time made by such trains is necessarily limited, or, speaking rather in railroad parlance, not limited, and in consequence the many tourists who some years ago began to frequent the springs and other such resorts along the line indulged, without reserve, in many a quaint and cutting witticism as they jogged along.

Setting out one morning with a number of nervous and impatient passengers aboard, among them "Our Bob," as the sturdy sons of the mountains in their pride delighted to call him, they had not proceeded far when a herd of cattle was discovered on the track a short distance ahead. The whistle was blown wildly for a few moments, but the train being some time in nearing them, they fled without giving any serious trouble.

This little diversion from the monotonous routine of stops and starts gave the fretful passengers topic for their pungent utterances and sarcastic flings for a few minutes, but the novelty soon died out and they all, one by one, lapsed into a state of meditative silence. Continuing this for a few miles (for several hours at least) they were suddenly aroused by another similar series of wild, frantic shrieks from the engine, giving emphatic and effective warning to another trespassing herd.

The ex-Governor, who had hitherto been saying but little, now grasped the humor of the situation, and, with a merry twinkle in his eyes, he laid aside the paper he had been perusing and exclaimed:

"Well, I'll be hanged if we haven't overtaken those cattle again."



PRINCESS KAILANI.

(The niece of ex-Queen Liliuokalani, who is on her way to the United States.)

ensborg. Just how the letters reached the Princess it is difficult to say. According to one version, they were conveyed to her by her intimate friend, Baroness Mohrenheim, then, as now, Russian Ambassadress at Paris, who was in a great measure responsible for her marriage, having spent many years at the Danish Court. According to other stories, it was Mlle. Appert, daughter of the general of that name, who had formerly been French Ambassador at St. Petersburg. But, in any case, it was Princess Waldemar of Denmark who showed these papers to the late Czar.

The effect upon the Muscovite Emperor was electrical. The scales seemed to fall from his eyes, and although he had arranged to attend the grand autumn manoeuvres of the German Army at Stettin as the guest of his uncle, old Emperor William, he at the last moment declined to fulfil his engagement, or even to touch at Stettin on his way back to St. Petersburg, the slight placed upon his aged relative being all the more marked by reason of the fact that Stettin is but a few hours' distance from Copenhagen. That proved the death blow of the so-called Three Emperors' Alliance, and although Bismarck sought by every means in his power to convince the Czar that the letters submitted to him by Princess Waldemar were mere forgeries, a story that was industriously circulated, not only in the German press, but also in all those numerous foreign newspapers subvented by the so-called "Reptile Fund" of the Berlin Foreign Office, yet he never succeeded in removing from the mind of the extraordinarily honest, if somewhat dull, Czar Alexander III the conviction that he had been shamefully betrayed by Germany.

TURNED TOWARD FRANCE.

From that time forth he turned his attention toward France, not so much from feelings of sympathy for the republic, as on account of his intense animosity toward Germany—an animosity that was fostered, not only by his Danish wife, to whom he was deeply attached, but

to drive out of the country all Christians and Jews, that is to say, all the mortgage holders, the bankers, the land agents and the revenue officials.

THE DANGER OF THE SITUATION.

The danger arising from the present situation, that is to say, from the proclamation of an offensive and defensive alliance between Russia and France, is very serious. For in the first place it has demonstrated to Emperor William once and for all time that his efforts to revive the former close and intimate relations between Berlin and St. Petersburg are entirely fruitless, and that the downright servility which he has displayed in his dealings with both the late and the present Czar have been all in vain. Moreover it will have the effect of binding him more closely to the Sultan, who has at his disposal a magnificent and victorious army, trained and led by German officers, equipped with German guns and rifles, which as a fighting force must be considered as an exceedingly powerful factor in the present political situation of Europe. It is an army which was able to hold in check the entire military resources of Russia twenty years ago, when it was far less splendidly organized than to-day, and there is every reason to believe that the Sultan in the event of his associating himself with Germany against Russia, would be able to rely upon the assistance of the equally well-equipped army of Prince Ferdinand of Bulgaria, which even in time of peace is larger than that of the huge British Empire.

On the other hand, it seems probable that in the exuberance of their delight over the conclusion of an alliance with Russia the French may cast aside the discretion and restraint that has until now characterized their attitude toward Germany, and manifest more openly their determination to recover those provinces which were wrested from them in 1870. Indeed Prime Minister Méline, the most calm, sensible and sober-minded of men, a lawyer who has hitherto